

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SANA 00284 080528Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01  
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 /092 W  
-----027719 080535Z /10

P R 071300Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY SANA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 189  
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY SANA  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
COMIDEASTFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L 0284

E.O. 11652: NGDS  
TAGS: PDIP, PBOR, PINS, DJ, ET, SO  
SUBJECT: MOUNTING TENSIONS IN DJIBOUTI-ETHIOPIAN REALTIONS

REF: DJIBOUTI 285

1. POST VIEWS WITH GROWING CONCERN INCREASING FRICTIONS IN  
RELATIONS BETWEEN DJIBOUTI AND ADDIS ABABA. AS DEPARTMENT IS  
AWARE, ONE OF THE KEYSTONES OF DJIBOUTI INDEPENDENCE IS THE  
MAINTENANCE OF AT LEAST A SUPERFICIAL NEUTRALITY IN ITS  
RELATIONS WITH ITS TWO BELLICOSE NEIGHBORS. EVENTS DEMON-  
STRATE THAT THE DJIBOUTI GOVERNMENT IS EITHER UNWILLING OR  
UNABLE TO PRESERVE THE SEMBLANCE OF EVENHANDEDNESS NECESSARY  
TO PLACATE BOTH PARTIES.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SANA 00284 080528Z

2. ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE FITIGU TASSE WAS RE-  
CALLED TO ADDIS ABABA ON 3 AUGUST TO EXPLAIN TO THE EPMG  
WHY RELATIONS WITH DJIBOUTI ARE NOT PROGRESSING BETTER,  
AND SPECIFICALLY WHY THE DJIBOUTI GOVERNMENT HAS NOT YET  
ACCEPTED HIS CREDENTIALS. CHARGE SPOKE WITH FITIGU ON THE

EVE OF HIS RETURN TO ADDIS AND WAS TOLD THAT EPMG PATIENCE WITH DJIBOUTI IRRITANTS WAS DRAWING VERY SHORT. FITIGU, WHO IS NORMALLY A CALM AND INTELLIGENT COLLEAGUE WITH A GOOD SENSE OF HUMOR, WAS NOT CONCERNED ABOUT BEING RECALLED TO ADDIS. HE EXPECTS TO RETURN TO DJIBOUTI WITHIN A WEEK.

3. ONE OF THE MAJOR PROBLEMS RAISED BY THE DJIBOUTIENS IS

AN INCURSION INTO DJIBOUTI TERRITORY OF A NUMBER OF ETHIOPIAN SOLDIERS ON JULY 21. REPORTEDLY, THE ETHIOPIANS STOLE SOME 400 SHEEP AND GOATS AS WELL AS TWO OR THREE CAMELS. THE INCIDENT COULD NOT HAVE OCCURED AT A WORST MOMENT, BECAUSE FITIGU WAS SUPPOSED TO PRESENT HIS CREDENTIALS TMS FOLLOWING DAY. THE APOINTMENT WITH THE PRESIDENT WAS CANCELLED (THE FRENCH, EGYPTIAN AND SOMALI AMBASSADORS DID PRESENT THEIR CREDENTIALS ON 22 JULY ) AND A VERY STRONG PROTEST WAS SENT TO ADDIS ABABA. ACCORDING TO FITIGU, THE ETHIOPIAN FOREIGN MINISTRRY IMMEDIATELY AGREED TO PAY COMPENSATION. NEVERTHELESS, THE DJIBOUTI GOVERNMENT IS NOT WILLING TO PUT THE MATTER ASIDE AND EVIDENTLY CONTINUES TO DISCUSS THE CONDITIONS FOR COMPENSATION AND OTHER DETAILS WHICH ARE VIEWED BY THE ETHIOPIANS AS SIMPLY PRETEXTS FOR NOT RECEIVING FITIGU'S CREDENTIALS.

4. FRENCH AMBASSADOR BASTOUIL PRESENTS A SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT ANALYSIS OF THE SHEEP AND GOAT INCIDENT, STATING  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SANA 00284 080528Z

THAT THE REAL REASON FOR THE DJIBOUTIEN RELUCTANCE IS THEIR DISLIKE TO FITIGU AND HIS LOCAL "SUBVERSIVE" ACTIVITIES. ACCORDING TO BASTOUIL, THE EPMG NEVER ASKED FOR FORMAL AGREEMENT FOR FITIGU, ASSUMING THAT AS LONG-TIME ETHIOPIAN CONSUL GENERAL IN DJIBOUTI (2 1/2 YEARS), THERE WAS NO NEED TO DO SO. BASTOUIL IS AWARE OF THE COMPLEX ISSUE PRESENTED BY THE LACK OF ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADORIAL REPRESENTATION, BUT HE PERSONALLY IS PUT OUT AT FITIGU BECAUSE THE ETHIOPIAN EVIDENTLY TOLD HIS GOVERNMENT THAT THE FRENCH WERE THE TRUE CULPRITS IN THE AFFAIR.

5. IF THE EPMG WISHES TO DEMONSTRATE SOME MUSCLE FOR ITS TROUBLESOME LITTLE NEIGHBOR, THERE EXISTS A READY-MADE OPPORTTIUNTY. ACCORDING TO FRENCH AMBASSADOR BASTOUIL, A GROUP OF ABOUT 75 F.L.C.S. MILITANTS FROM DJIBOUTI CROSSED INTO ETHIOPIAN TERRITORY IN EARLY JULY AND OCCUPIED AN ABANDONED ETHIOPIAN POLICE POST ON THE RAILWAY LINE JUST WEST OF DUENELE. THERE THEY RAISED THE F.L.C.S. FLAG, WHICH SERVED AS A MODEL FOR THE DJIBOUTI NATIONAL FLAG, AND THEREFORE COULD BE TAKEN AS A DJIBOUTI FLAG. AN ADDITIONAL GROUP OF 200 PLUS F.L.C.S. MEMBERS FROM SOMALIA SUBSEQUENTLY CROSSED THROUGH DJIBOUTI TERRITORY TO REINFORCE THEIR COMRADES.

ALTHOUGH THE FRENCH HAVE REPEATEDLY WARNED THE DJIBOUTI  
GOVERNMENT IN OPPOSITION TO F.L.C.S. ACTIONS.

6. GIVEN THE VOLCANIC SITUATION IN THE HORN, IT IS CLEAR  
THAT THE DILEMMA PRESENTED BY ITS ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS  
PRESENTS CONSIDERABLE DANGER TO DJIBOUTI. IF DJIBOUTI  
CONTINUES TO DRIFT INTO THE SOMALI ORBIT, THERE WILL BE IN-  
CREASED PRRESSURE WITH THE EPMG TO "PROTECT DJIBOUTI'S  
INDEPENDENCE." EVEN IF THE MATTER DOES NOT COME TO A  
HEAD IN THE FORM OF A FRONTAL ATTACK, THERE ARE OTHER WAYS  
OF BRINGING PRESSURE. AS CHARGE FITIGU HAS STATED TO ME  
ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, THE ETHIOPIAN POSSESS CONSIDERABLE  
ABILITY TO "DESTABILIZE" THE SITUATION IN DJIBOUTI.

CLARKE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 SANA 00284 080528Z

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, CREDENTIALS PRESENTATION, BORDER INCIDENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 07-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977SANA00284  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770284-0327  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** SANA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770887/aaaacvzz.tel  
**Line Count:** 136  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** fddf5160-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 DJIBOUTI 285  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 01-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1680791  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MOUNTING TENSIONS IN DJIBOUTI-ETHIOPIAN REALTIONS  
**TAGS:** PDIP, PBOR, PINS, DJ, ET, SO, (TASSE, FITIGU)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/fddf5160-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009